2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Article V, article VI and preambular paragraphs 8 to 12 [Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty]

Working paper for submission to Main Committee I and to Main Committee III by Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Hungary, Ireland, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway and Sweden

1. The Conference reaffirms that the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty constitutes an effective measure of nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation in all its aspects and is vital to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty was an integral part of the indefinite extension of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The Conference therefore stresses that the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty is of utmost urgency and importance and reiterates the agreement from the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons where early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty was identified as the first of thirteen practical nuclear disarmament steps. The Conference reaffirms that the provisions of article V of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as regards the peaceful applications of any nuclear explosions are to be interpreted in the light of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

2. The Conference notes with concern that nine years after it was opened for signature, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty has still not entered into force. The Conference welcomes the signing of the Treaty by 175 States, of which 120 have ratified the Treaty, including 33 whose ratification is necessary for its entry into force. The Conference renews its call upon all States, particularly the remaining eleven Annex 2 States whose ratification is a prerequisite for entry into force, to sign and/or ratify the treaty without delay.

3. The Conference welcomes the results of the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (Article XIV Conference) held in September 2003 and its adoption of 12 specific and practical measures to promote the early entry into force of the Treaty. The Conference welcomes the work of its Special Representative in that regard. Another Article XIV Conference is to be held 22-24 September 2005, and the Conference urges all States to participate actively in order to ensure a successful outcome. The Conference also

welcomes the Joint Ministerial Statement on the Treaty that was launched on 23 September 2004 at United Nations Headquarters with which 69 States associated themselves.

4. Reiterating that the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty constrains the development of nuclear weapons and their qualitative improvement, the Conference reaffirms that the Treaty combats both horizontal and vertical nuclear proliferation. The Conference is concerned that any development of new types of nuclear weapons may result in the resumption of tests and a lowering of the nuclear threshold. The Conference calls on all States to refrain from any action which would defeat the object and purpose of the Treaty, pending its entry into force.

5. The Conference underlines that existing moratoriums on nuclear-weapon-test explosions and any other nuclear test explosions must be maintained, pending the Treaty's entry into force. The Conference stresses, however, that such moratoriums cannot serve as a substitute for ratification and that only the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty offers the global community the prospect of a permanent and legally binding commitment to end nuclear testing.

6. The Conference welcomes the progress made by the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization in establishing the International Monitoring System, which will enable the verification of compliance with the Treaty at its entry into force.